

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGR-20 RSC-01 AID-20 EB-11 IOE-00 COME-00

ISO-00 DRC-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 STR-08 SR-02

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, FAO, ECON

SUBJECT: FAO CONFERENCE - WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

REF: A. STATE 222026; B. STATE 222510

1. ON NOVEMBER 9 USDEL SHOWN ADVANCE COPY FAO DOCUMENT ON WFC (MENTIONED REFTTEL A) BY AZIZ OF FAO STAFF. AZIZ SAID DOCUMENT WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED MEMBER GOVERNMENTS NOVEMBER 10. USDEL (MILLS) INFORMED AZIZ FINAL INSTRUCTIONS NOT RECEIVED, BUT INCLUSION "INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT" (PARA 18) AMONG TOPICS CONSIDERED FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION CERTAIN TO CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR U.S., AS WAS BROUGHT OUT IN RECENT CONSULTATIONS WITH AZIZ IN WASHINGTON. AZIZ ACKNOWLEDGED THIS BUT SAID FAO INVOLVED IN DELICATE DISCUSSIONS WITH UNCTAD ON HOW TRADE ISSUES RELATED TO WFC AND NATURE UNCTAD PARTICIPATION. NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES LIKELY TO SEEK OPPORTUNITY MOVED WFC ALONG LINES ALGIERS RESOLUTION
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IF UNCTAD NOT IN AGREEMENT WITH FAO. FAO PROPOSAL WAS TO HAVE

WFC FOCUS ON "LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES" IN TRADE FIELD RATHER THAN IMMEDIATE ACTION. AZIZ SAID DG TRYING TO PERSUADE UNCTAD SYG PEREZ GUERRERO ATTEND 17TH CONFERENCE IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE UNANIMITY OF VIEWS.

2. ON RECEIPT INSTRUCTIONS REFTELS, USDEL REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH DG BOERMA TO DESCRIBE GENERAL NATURE U.S. POSITION AND SEEK REACTION. BRIEF MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING AFTERNOON CONFERENCE SESSION NOVEMBER 10, ALSO ATTENDED BY DDG JACKSON, WEITZ, WHO HAD JUST ARRIVED, AND WALTON (BOERMA'S CHEF DE CABINET). WHEN SHOWN DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE, BOERMA SAID HIS IMMEDIATE REACTION WAS THAT, ALTHOUGH DRAFT MADE NO REFERENCE TO FAO, U.S. WAS ASKING THAT WFC DEAL ONLY WITH MATTERS ALREADY IN FAO'S FIELD OF RESPONSIBILITY. THESE MATTERS COULD IN FACT BE HANDLED BY A CONFERENCE SUCH AS THE ONE NOW TAKING PLACE. HE NOTED ABSENCE OF BROADER ISSUES SUCH AS TRADE. USDEL SAID U.S. VIEW BASED ON NEED TO LIMIT AGENDA TO ISSUES WHERE WE FELT PROGRESS POSSIBLE AND STEER AWAY FROM CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES SUCH AS TRADE, WHICH WAS STRESSED IN FAO'S DRAFT DOCUMENT.

3. AT THIS POINT, BOERMA ASKED WALTON WHETHER DOCUMENT HAD BEEN ISSUED. WALTON CONFIRMED THAT IT HAD JUST BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. COMMENTING THAT ISSUE COULD NOT NOW BE AVOIDED, BOERMA ASKED USDEL WHETHER THERE WAS FLEXIBILITY IN U.S. POSITION ON THIS POINT. WE REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE, BUT STRESSED THAT IN PUTTING FORWARD PROPOSALS U.S. WOULD BE SEEKING VIEWS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. WE TOLD BOERMA WE WOULD CONSULT WITH WASHINGTON, BUT AS HE AND AZIZ HAD HEARD DURING THEIR RECENT VISITS TO WASHINGTON, USG VIEWS WERE FIRMLY SET AGAINST INCLUSION OF TRADE ISSUES IN WFC AGENDA.

4. AFTER BOERMA EXCUSED HIMSELF TO MEET WITH PRC DELEGATION WAITING IN NEXT ROOM, USDEL OBSERVED THAT U.S. AND FAO VIEWS ON ORGANIZATION WFC APPEARED NEARLY IDENTICAL -- ONLY DIVERGENT POINT MIGHT BE DG'S VIEW (PARA 19) THAT WFC SHOULD BE "ORGANIZED JOINTLY BY THE UNITED NATIONS AND FAO." THIS OBVIOUSLY SENSITIVE POINT WITH JACKSON, WHOSE RESPONSE INDICATED CONCERN IN FAO THAT UN CONTROL WFC MAY UNDERMINE FAO'S AUTHORITY IN ITS FIELD OF RESPONSIBILITY. WHEN USDEL CITED NEED FOR UN AUSPICES IN ORDER INVOLVE USSR AND GIVE WFC UNIVERSAL CHARACTER, WEITZ LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INDICATED USSR HAS ALREADY SHOWN COOL ATTITUDE TOWARDS WFC. JACKSON COMMENTED THAT IF USSR INTERESTED TAKING ANY RESPONSIBILITY IN FOOD MATTERS, IT WOULD JOIN FAO.

5. COMMENT: USDEL INTENDS CONSULT WITH WEITZ AND OTHER FAO SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS IN ORDER PRESS U.S. VIEWS AND SEEK COOPERATION IN HANDLING WFC ISSUE AS SMOOTHLY AS POSSIBLE. BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT COMMENT PARA 2 REFTEL A ABOUT FAO

INTEREST IN AVOIDING "IRRITATING U.S. WHICH NOW SUPPORTING
FAO AS PRIMARY AGENCY FOR PREPARING AND HOLDING WFC" NOT VERY
REALISTIC. WE HAVE NO DOUBT OF FAO DESIRE TO COOPERATE AS
CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE WITH U.S. THIS DEMONSTRATED BY FREQUENT
FAO ATTEMPTS OVER PAST WEEKS TO OBTAIN U.S. VIEWS WFC, WHICH
U.S. HERETOFORE UNABLE ELABORATE WITH ANY PRECISION.

6. REGARDING PARA 4 ABOVE USDEL SEES SOME MERIT IN GOING
ALONG WITH FAO SUGGESTION THAT WFC BE ORGANIZED JOINTLY BY UN
AND FAO AND HAVING THIS CLEARLY STATED IN TERMS OF REFERENCE.
IN VIEW USDEL, U.S. INTEREST WOULD BE SERVED BY INSURING THAT
FAO HAS MAXIMUM CONTROL OVER WFC ARRANGEMENTS. WE DO NOT PROPOSE
ALTERATION DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE REFTELS, BUT REQUEST
DEPARTMENT CONCURRENCE THAT DELEGATION NOT OPPOSE IF JOINT
ORGANIZATION ENDORSED BY 17TH CONFERENCE. VOLPE

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